

# SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.

SERVING NEAR SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST

Partially funded by a grant from East Coast Development Corporation

Summer 1994



## Fish Merchants in the Dock

by Kate Mulligan  
Southwester Reporter

The fish no longer arrive by boat to the Maine Avenue Fish Market. They are trucked in from Jessup, Maryland, and sometimes come from as far away as Texas and Louisiana. The merchants themselves live on the Eastern Shore, but still the market elicits an almost irrational loyalty from city residents. Two years ago, more than 12,000 people signed letters to Mayor Kelly protesting city plans to redevelop the wharf.

Keith Melder, a Smithsonian curator who has written about Southwest's history, has some ideas about why this small, sometimes smelly, bit of commerce inspires such support. "Because of urban renewal, this area has been sanitized. The fish market adds a human quality...[it is] less constrained by the sterility of Southwest." And, he adds, "The fish market has soul."

Soul is precisely what was lost during urban renewal in the 1950s—that, and history. "History stopped for Southwest Washington in the early 1950s. History began again in the late 1950s as the neighborhood was reconstructed," wrote Melder. History, however, continued unimpeded at the wharf. In fact, the original Custis of Custis and Brown, one of the current merchants, was a distant relation of Martha Custis Washington. Some claim that the wharf contains the oldest, continuous open-air market in the country.

The market has some unexpected fans. A local bank used a picture of the market in an advertising spread because "...it's free enterprise at its best." Restaurant critic Phyllis Richmond named it one of the city's "50 trend-setters...one of those colorful corners that make the city great." The Washington Post architectural critic Benjamin Forgey called it, "one of the liveliest little markets on the Eastern Seaboard," praising its "gritty urban charm of the sort you can't buy anymore."

Melder points out that other cities have sought to preserve or reconstruct similar environments and adds that the market is one of the few examples in the area of successful small enterprise, a sharp contrast with Waterside Mall and its constantly changing cast of proprietors.

The fish merchants themselves have taken the initiative to eliminate the only aspect of the market's funky charm deplored by all—the smell. At a cost of \$60,000, they have enclosed the dumpster in an air-conditioned structure.

The market is on federal land that is managed by the city under the terms of a law passed by Congress in 1913, giving the city "the right to exclusively control, regulate and operate as a municipal fishwharf and market, the water frontage on the Potomac River lying south of Water Street between 11th and 12th Streets." Eastern Market, another site where issues concerning development seem never to reach a resolution, was also included in the legislation.

The status of the fish market is further com-

plicated because of the Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA). A city agency established with broad powers to redevelop Southwest, the RLA was authorized to undertake a 40-year-program of urban renewal to end in 1996. The market

See Fish Market, page 5

## Jefferson Students Claim Lion's Share of Awards

In a ceremony held May 26 at Eliot Junior High School, several area students were cited for perfect school attendance. The majority of the awards were given to Jefferson Junior High school pupils.

District Board of Education member at-large, Valencia Mohammed, presented each honoree with a commemorative plaque. Also several local companies contributed to a bag of gifts that was given to each student. Last year, Jefferson had the highest attendance record for the second semester citywide.

Jefferson students honored were: Keonna Carter, Rashida Johnson, 7th grader, five years perfect school attendance; Amber H. Drummond, 8th grade, six years; Ryan Barber, 9th grade, seven years; London Toney, Veronica Combs and Shari Mack, 8th and 9th graders, eight years; Tamla A. Gather, 9th grader, ten years perfect school attendance.

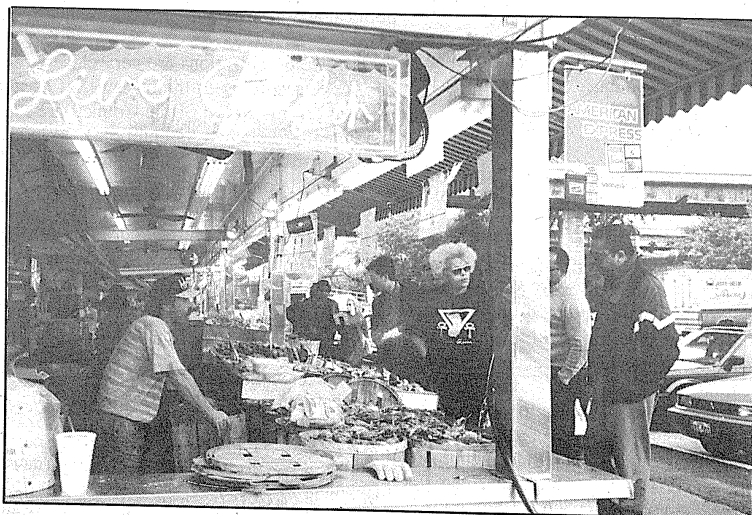
## No ANC Action Taken On Capitol Park Fence

Receiving upwards of 200 signatures for and against the proposed fence which Capitol Park IV condominium wants to erect across Delaware Avenue, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2-D voted to take no action on a city building permit which has been issued for the fence, pending possible comment from the commission.

See Capitol Park Fence, page 3

## Many Thanks

After we tried many different funding sources, the Mayor's office came through for the *Southwester*. A check in the amount of \$500.00 was presented to the editor by Mayor Kelly. The money will be used for the distribution staff. I want to thank her office (as well as the mayor, herself) for this financial help. The distribution staff are the only paid people who are associated with the paper.



Pruitt seafood barge; proprietor visited ANC

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## Southwest Community Calendar

(June/August 1994)

June 7 Tuesday, First District Citizens Advisory Council, 7:30 pm ID Headquarters (415 4th St. SW)

June 8 Wednesday, National Capital Planning Commission Open House on 21st Century Planning June 13 Monday, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D, 7:30 Westminster Church

June 15 Wednesday, AARP Cruise Luncheon 11 am. (Contact 554-5503.)

June 22 Wednesday, A salute to Father Norman Haddad, O.P., 6:30 pm Fort McNair Officers Club

June 25 Saturday, Ward 2 Jobs Fair, 10 am Shiloh Baptist Church, 1510 9th ST. NW

June 26 Sunday, Star Trek 5K Race 8:30 am Southwest Waterfront. Contact 703-671-1003.

June 30 Thursday, NARFE Chapter 2052, 1:30 pm Southwest Branch Library

July 11 Monday, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D, 7:30 pm Westminster Church

July 21-23 Thurs.-Sat., play "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" by Uniquely D.C., 8:00 pm at Southeastern University, 501 Eye St., \$10.00

July 24 Sunday, matinee, 4:00 pm (at above location) \$10.00

July 28-30 Thurs.-Sat., see the above

July 31 Sunday, matinee, 4:00 pm

August 13 Saturday, Uniquely-DC Fest '94 Greenleaf Field, Delaware & M & N & Canal St.

(Please submit community events to C.W. Hargrave, 554-8284)

## United States Air Force Band Performances

The United States Air Force Concert Band will be giving a series of free concerts to mark the 1994 Summer Concert Series on the Mall.

The concerts will be located on the East Plaza of the U.S. Capitol steps, Capitol Hill, between Constitution and Independence Avenues. The nearest Metro is Capitol South station.

The dates, all beginning at 8:00 pm are Tuesday evening June 21, Friday evening, June 24th, and Tuesday evening, June 28th. All concerts are free.

## Informative Program about Skin Cancer

On Saturday, June 25, 1994, at 10:00 am at St. Augustines Church, 6th & M St., Thelma Jones has arranged for experts to inform us about the problems associated with exposure to the sun and other causes of skin cancer. This is the most common of all cancers, and some very simple precautions can help us to avoid this disease. The seminar is open to the public, so plan to come and bring a friend or neighbor to learn more about this very important topic. There will be a mini fashion show. For information call Thelma Jones at 202/488-3746.

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## SW Community Council

by Margaret Feldman  
*Southwester reporter*

The SW Community Council held its election for officers following the Assembly election on April 25th.

The officers are as follows: President, Margaret Feldman; 1st Vice President, John Brown; 2nd Vice President, Thelma Jones; Secretary, Dale MacIver; Treasurer, Lonnie Murray.

There is some confusion about the difference between the Council and the Assembly. The Council is the legal non-profit entity for the Assembly. The Assembly and its Task Forces are the action groups. Checks coming to any of the Assembly Task Forces for their community work come to the Council for accounting and later disbursement.

The question is often asked, "why do we need two organizations?" The reason is that charitable organizations are not supposed to take political action, which the Assembly might want to do.

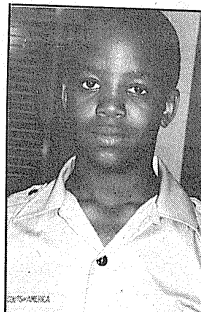
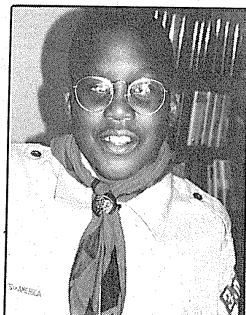
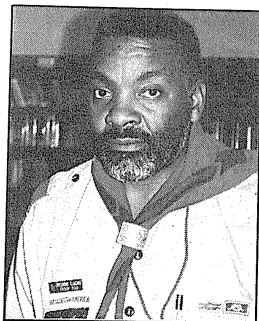
The two organizations are very closely related since, according to the by-laws, at least 10 members of the Board of the Council are appointed from the Assembly Officers and Representatives. The Council Board may, and does, include other community or non-community people. The officers are elected by the Council Board and those currently serving include two non-Assembly board members: Dale MacIver and Thelma Jones.

## SWNA Helps College-Bound Youth

Southwest youth will get help preparing for college from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly.

A class to prepare for the S.A.T. college entrance test will be given several Saturdays in September and October.

Information will be at the Southwest Branch Library.



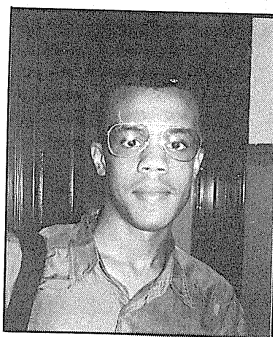
Scout Leader, Tom Davis with three members of Troop 800. This troop meets at Second Baptist.

## S.W. Black Women Playwrights Group

The S.W. Branch Library is a springboard for creativity. On June 27th, the Branch Librarian, Carolyn McCormick will be at the Studio Theater, 1333 P St., NW. She will be doing a dramatic reading. Southwester, Stella Gomes, will also be there as one of the writers.

Lois Wiley teaches at Jefferson Junior H.S. She will be doing several of her own works and others by Jefferson students.

The admission is \$5.00. The performance begins at 7:00 pm. For more information, call 202/832-7329.



## Capitol Park Fence

from page 1

Capitol Park's representative on the commission, C.W. Hargrave, made the motion for the commission to take no action. His was the only vote for taking no action. Commissioners Richard Westbrook and Alphonso Coles voted against Hargrave's motion. Chair LaVerne Reeves and Commissioner Le Eckles abstained from the vote.

Hargrave explained his motion by saying he had received petitions from persons living close to the proposed fence site, with 27 in favor and 8 opposed. He later told the Southwester that he considered none of the approximately 150 other petitioners who either didn't live near the proposed fence site or were listed only on petitions reaching the commission at the meeting.

Eckles spoke vehemently against fences as damaging to neighborhoods, but didn't vote. Reeves did not explain her abstention.

Condo president Robert Bolle spoke for the fence. Speaking against the fence were Nathaniel Polster, Alice Anderson and Dana Winner.

After the vote Georgeanne Wilcoxson said to the commission that some future action should be taken to help give Greenleaf Gardens residents some protection against crime, which protection is what is sought by those who proposed the fence.

Keys to the fence's gate will be available at a fee for residents of Capitol Park IV, Capitol Park II, 201 I St., 101 G St., 103 G St., and 301 G St. and the high rise apartment at 101 G St. Other neighborhood pedestrians will be barred from access to the condo via Delaware Avenue. No vehicular traffic will be allowed through the fence, but the DC Fire Department will be able to enter in case of fire.



## JOHN RAY ON...

### RENT CONTROL, RENTAL HOUSING, AND TENANTS' RIGHTS

#### RENT CONTROL

John Ray has voted for every rent control law enacted by the City Council during his fourteen years as a Council Member. In the most recent action to preserve the rent control system, he voted in favor of the 1989 amendment to extend rent control into 1995.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS

John Ray led the successful fight to guarantee seniors life time tenancy in rent-controlled buildings. In 1991, he sponsored—and won—legislation to exempt senior citizens from capital improvement rent increases.

#### SAVING RENTAL HOUSING

John Ray co-authored the law prohibiting the conversion of rental housing to condominiums unless a majority of the tenants want it. He sponsored legislation, due for final Council approval this spring, that will extend this protection of tenants indefinitely.

#### MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

John Ray created the Distressed Properties Program to renovate run-down apartment buildings for the tenants who live there now. It has saved thousands of tenants from being forced out of their homes.

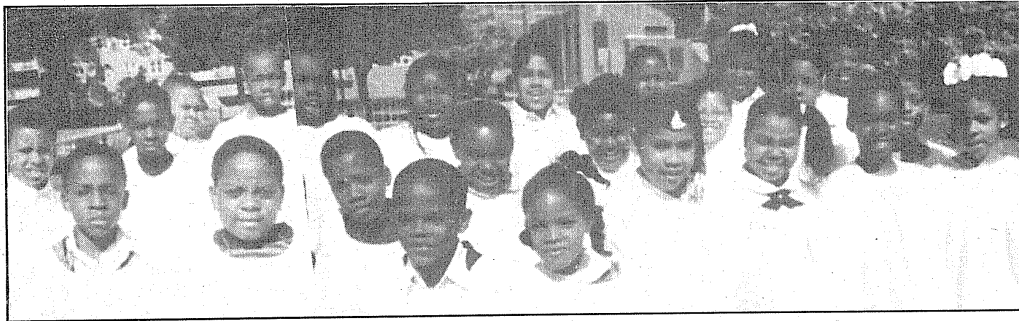
#### OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR TENANTS

John Ray has supported and voted for dozens of redevelopment and financing proposals that have made it possible for tenants organizations throughout the city to buy their buildings in cooperative arrangements and achieve the dream of home ownership.

#### PROTECTING RENTAL HOUSING

As a member of the Council's Housing Committee, John Ray has exercised a strong voice in making sure rental housing continues to be an important part of the city's overall housing policies. He has worked to assure that a fair share of the city's \$12 million in federal HOME program funds goes to develop affordable and high-quality rental housing.

**VOTE JOHN RAY IN THE MAYORAL PRIMARY**



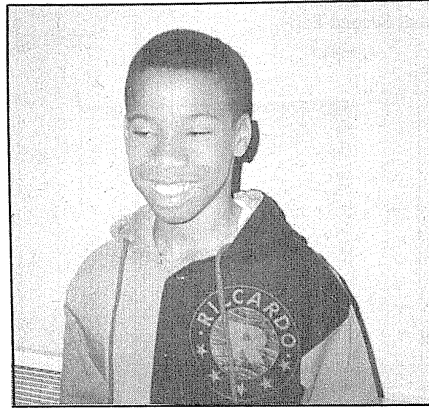
Anthony Bowen Choir

## ANC Meeting

At its May 9, 1994 meeting, ANC 2D:

1. Took the following positions on amendments to the city's comprehensive plan now being considered by the DC Council: 1) the ANC opposes making the Buzzard Point area a part of the "central employment area"; 2) the ANC does not support increasing the development densities of three blocks along the west side of South Capitol Street between I and M Streets; and, 3) the ANC supported additional public hearings on the plan.
2. Heard Arminda Valles, of the Office of the Peoples' Counsel, update the ANC on OPC activities.
3. Listened to JoAnn Williams describe a new organization Uniquely DC; which is planning a "S.W. Fest" for August 13, 1994 at Greenleaf Gardens.
4. Agreed to give \$50 to the Friends of Marion Park to help with a playground in memory of Officer Jason White, providing it meets the requirements of the ANC law regarding grants.
5. Noted the following pending ABC applications, but took no action on them: L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, (#10483); Oh's Place Restaurant, (#9698); and, The Arena Stage, (#11440).
6. Decided to contact the Department of Administrative Services, which now has responsibility for Syphax School, about: 1) better maintenance of the building and grounds until the school's future is decided, and 2) involving the ANC in planning for the future use of the school.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** The ANC will meet again at 7:30 pm, at 400 I Street SW (in the basement of Westminster Church) on Monday, July 11 and September 19; there will be no August meeting.



James Cobey Matthews, member of P.E.P. (Plant and Earth People at Westminster Church, discovers his own talent in photography and is currently making postcards.

## John Wilson Remembered

It has been over a year since Washington, DC lost a great leader. The May 1993 issue had been pasted-up and was at our printing company. I learned from a friend that John Wilson had passed. Since the paper had not yet gone to press, I was able to insert an expression of our grief into the *Southwester*.

In spite of our own individual political leanings, those of us living in Southwest feel a special relationship with John Wilson since he first represented this ward. We know that this past year has been a busy one for Washington and we could have sure used his financial expertise. This is but one of his virtues and we have come to recognize it as one of John's special gifts

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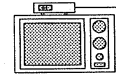
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# Fish Market Planning Discussion

*Fish merchants from page 1*

was largely ignored during that process. Now, with the commercial attractiveness of waterfront property, it is much like a neglected stepchild who has been discovered to possess a large inheritance.

These legal complexities have produced some anomalies. For example, for the past eight years, T. Rodney Oppmann, an attorney representing the merchants, has paid an annual visit to the Subcommittee on DC Appropriations, where he has five minutes to testify about the problems of the merchants in dealing with the city. He goes because he has discovered no other forum except the courts to as he puts it, "get redress." In recent years, he has begun his testimony by requesting that the market be assigned to a federal agency for oversight.

And, these complexities have also produced a seemingly unending series of conflicts. Take, for instance, the matter of the lease. The fish merchants have a 5-year lease that expires in 1996; other commercial users of the waterfront like the Capitol Yacht Club have 99-year leases negotiated 25 years ago. According to Oppmann, the merchants proposed a 20-year lease in 1985. City officials turned it down, stating that the International Trade and Cultural Center was to be built on Maine Avenue. Attorneys for the merchants got letters from the White House and OMB that refute the city's statement. Currently, city officials claim that the merchants are holding up negotiations for a new lease. Oppmann says that the merchants submitted the necessary documentation more than eight months ago and that the city tried to change the parameters of the property.

Last January, the D.C. Superior Court ruled that city officials violated the terms of the lease.

A place had become vacant when a fish merchant went bankrupt. The city demanded that the remaining sellers pay its rent, and the remaining merchants agreed. But city officials changed their minds two years later and tried to move two new merchants into the unused space. Three officials of the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs testified as witnesses to substantiate claims that the city had violated the terms of its own lease.

The matter of rents reached the level of a mayoral-congressional dispute. In March 1993, when on the Diane Rehm Show, Kelly said, "When we try to redesign with limited tax land, we have to do a better job to generate more revenues or to protect the environment. Members on the Hill block us such as the wharf...All of the fisherman together down there pay us \$20,000 a year. Congress cut that deal."

Attorneys for the merchants quickly responded, pointing out that Kelly had understated the amount paid. Beginning in 1987, the merchants paid \$47,000 in rent and wharfage, \$340,000 for costs such as security and maintenance previously covered by the city, and collected and paid approximately \$300,000 in various taxes. Julian Dixon (D-Calif.), chair of the DC Appropriations Committee, took his shot when city officials testified about the



General view of portion of fish market

wharf. He pointed out that the lease had been negotiated by a city agency, not Congress, and added that "her remarks were made in the context of statehood...We have to be part of a Constitution. I would agree with that, but the argument that she uses in this case has nothing to do with anything."

But, these are minor skirmishes.. The biggest bone of contention is development of the wharf. The fish merchants commissioned a plan by the Holland Lessard Group, a DC architectural firm. According to Forgey, the plan calls for "simple sprucing up and a few minimal adjustments--tearing down the outmoded, centrally located fish-cleaning building...building a new one on the southern edge of the property and moving a huge dumpster."

The proposal developed by a group of private companies for the city's Master Plan calls for extending one of the wharves into the channel (the idea has apparently been dropped), moving the selling operations into six pavilions on a repaved shorelines and transferring services (storage, offices) into a new building on the remaining pier. City officials say it will promote economic development and expand recreational opportunities. Forgey calls it "planning overkill." Duryeu Smith, chief of commercial development for the RLA, told a reporter for the Washington Business Journal, "We're not trying to put these guys out of business--they're going to get a more efficient use of space." The merchants say there's no way the pavilions could provide enough space for their operations.

What's next? Doubtless more uncertainty for the merchants and supporters of the market. The ANC repeatedly has tried to get information about the Master Plan. Merrick Malone, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, eventually met privately with two members of the organization after several efforts to schedule a public meeting. Later, he sent two representatives to a public ANC meeting, but they would only answer questions about Phase I, the refurbishing of the promenade. Councilman Jack Evans has made repeated and unsuccessful efforts to get

information about the impact of the Master Plan on the merchants. Merchants point with alarm to comments Malone made last April on a news show about the market. "It's no need to engage them (the merchants) because we'll get our property back in '96 without...without any litigation....So rather than engage them, we simply will wait it out. Do the rest of the development plan and go forward and in 1996, they've got to go, one way or the other."

Mayor Kelly, however, has the most recent last word. In early June, she told a group of Southwest residents that city officials didn't intend "to do anything" to the fish market.

## MARKET INN

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## Uniquely D.C. Fest Planned for Southwest

by Regina Rorie *Southwester* Reporter

The Southwest community will soon host a festival to commemorate its cultural history. Uniquely D.C. a nonprofit organization, will sponsor the gala celebration August 13 at Greenleaf Field. The field is bordered by Delaware Avenue and M, N, and Canal Streets. Melissa Taylor and JoAnn Williams, promoters of the event, feel this festival will be unlike any other the city has ever known.

Each year they're hoping to hold a celebration of one quadrant of the city's neighborhoods. They're beginning with Southwest and its rich, colorful past. "We will have food for the body, and food for the mind," said Taylor.

Events scheduled include arts, crafts, walking tours, entertainment and a children's activity area. The documentary, "Southwest Remembered," will be shown continuously throughout the day. There will also be on display a community activity booklet on which, according to Williams, Bowen students demonstrated exceptional skill in a recent Uniquely D.C. sponsored drawing contest. Winners were: 1st Prize - Charlotte Dunston, grade 2 (\$100 U.S. Savings Bond); 2nd Prize - Danielle Cosey, grade 4 (\$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond; Honorable Mention - Lamikah Evelyn, grade 4; and Latoya Harris, grade 4.

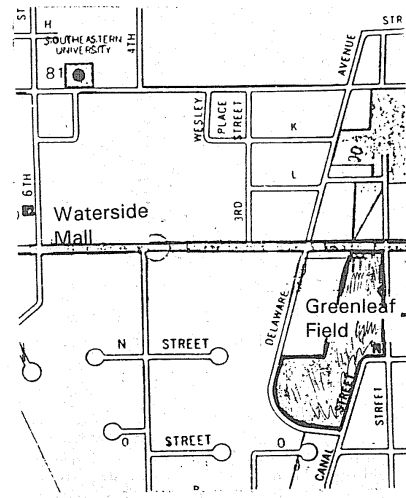
A play written by Taylor, is scheduled for performance July 21-24 and July 28-31, at Southeastern University (501 I St.) and it will hallmark the upcoming festivities. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week, the play is scheduled for 8 pm, on Sundays matinees will be at 4 pm. The original theatrical production entitled "Something Borrowed, Something Blue," is about Southwest. It has received an excellent review from local community leader Margaret Feldman who was present at the first reading. "It really is exceptionally good," she said.

Though the producers have several proposed partnerships, they are still in need of help. More sponsors, individual and corporate, would be greatly appreciated they agreed. Williams and Taylor are also seeking the help of police officers and security personnel willing to donate their time. Residents who have lived in the community for ten years or more are wanted to serve as tour guides.

Neighborhood performers who wish to participate in the talent show should call and arrange an audition. There will be a mass choir made up of members of Southwest Church Choirs and individuals who just enjoy singing. Children, there will be a dance performance.

If you or your group would like to sing in the mass choir or if you are a child who likes to dance in shows, please call the number below. Last, but not least, area youth are needed to help with pre-festival logistics during the weeks prior to the event. All prospective sponsors, volunteers, vendors and other interested parties should contact Melissa Taylor at 202/488-8819 or JoAnn Williams at 202/561-0978.

In the event of rain, the festival will be held on August 20.



## TGOF at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 222 M Street SW, holds the first of its TGOF--Thank God On Friday--summer sessions Friday June 24 at 7:00 pm. This is a neighborhood event.

Rev. Barron Maberry notes that some Southwest residents have expressed a wish to attend a brief Friday evening service, followed by conversation with neighbors on such topics as stress management, being single in Southwest, family, neighborhood and community topics.

"TGOF gives us all the opportunity to say 'Thanks, God, for Friday!' and to put the coming weekend in perspective," Dr. Maberry said.

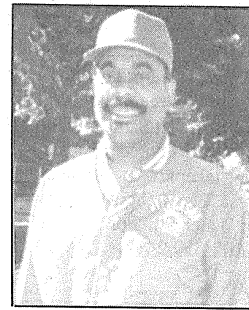
Dr. Maberry holds three graduate degrees in health education and counseling. During the evening Pastor Maberry will give free instruction in rapid relaxation techniques he teaches at "Positive People Produce 'Positive Results'" seminars he conducts for business and government groups in the Metropolitan Washington area.

Other professional available for topical conversation June 24 include staff members from a northern Virginia women's center and support group.

Recorded music and refreshments will also be available. Dr. Maberry noted St. Matthew's is interested in finding out whether TGOF should feature small religious jazz groups during community evenings this summer.



Jefferson Junior High School Varsity Baseball Team and its coach



## WARD 2 JOB FAIR

On Saturday, June 25, 1994, there will be a Ward 2 Job Fair, hosted by Councilmember Jack Evans, at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1510 - 9th Street, NW.

Participating groups include Ward 2 Business Associations, job recruitment representatives from industries such as the Restaurant and Hotel Associations, Parking Lots, Hospitals, Media, Universities, Supermarkets, Department and Specialty Stores, Public Utilities, DC and Federal Government Agencies and MORE!!

There will be 'How To' workshops on: preparing a resume, scheduling an interview, the do's and don'ts of an interview, how to prepare and dress for an interview, understanding the employment section of the newspaper and MORE!!

All are invited-please spread the word. For more information, call Moni or June in Councilmember Evans' office, 202-724-8058.

## Camp Brown Open to Southwest Children - Free

Five days at the Police Boys and Girls Club Camp Brown on Chesapeake Bay is offered free to Southwest boys and girls ages 7 to 12. The \$50 a week fee is being paid by the S.W. Youth Activities Task Force.

Boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, camp fire, crafts, team sports and talent shows are on the schedule.

Application forms can be picked up at Club #4 in the Bowen School gym. Call the club 727-4618 for information between 4 pm and 7 pm, or the MPB&G Club headquarters at 727-4084 during the day.

Parents fill in a permission form and information for a physical examination, which can be given by your personal physician or by a doctor who will come to Club #4.

Many children will already be going for one week. The YATF will pay for a second week.

The camp runs Monday through Friday each week from June 27 through August 19.

## CRIME-SAFETY TIP

Now that summer has come, be extra careful. A member of the Southwester staff was robbed by four young girls at knife point. The police say that there has been an increase in purse snatchings ever since the warm weather arrived.

The Southwester staff member was accosted in the 700 block of I Street, SW around 4:45 p.m. as she was walking toward the grocery store.

She feels a special kind of kudos should be given to Officer Parker, the police officer who responded to her call. "They arrived within minutes of my call," she said, adding, "They even drove me around to look for the girls." Unfortunately, they were unable to locate the suspects.

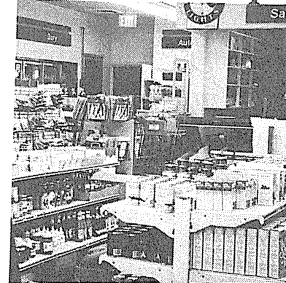
Crime experts recommend that unless you are superhuman and if your in a similar situation, it's always best to hand over your purse or wallet rather than risk losing your life.

A petition requesting "an increase in the number of foot and vehicle patrols on the streets of Southwest, especially during the hour of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m." will be at the Branch Library.

## Dr. Brooks Honored

Dr. Charlotte Kendrick Brooks was honored by the District of Columbia Council of Teachers of English. At a dinner in her honor which was held earlier in June, she received tributes from colleagues, former teachers and students, friends and her pastor, Rev. John T. Talbott. This neighborhood has always recognized her as a leading community worker, now her city has honored her. The "Charlotte K. Brooks Student Honor Award" has been established.

## Waterside Convenience and Butcher Shop

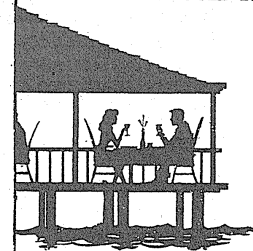


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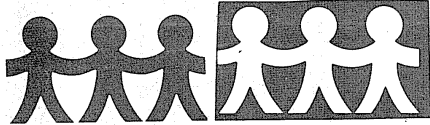
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## All Aboard

Greenpeace's flagship, S.V. Rainbow Warrior, will be at Pier 4 from Saturday June 30th until Monday July 4th. Greenpeace will be holding an "open-boat" on that Saturday, Sunday and Monday. People are invited onboard to look around and to takepart in the planned environmental classes. Pier 4 (Spirit Cruises) is located on 6th St. at Water St. For more information, please call 202/319-2497.



## River Parkers Plant and Sell

On Saturday May 21st, River Parkers celebrated Arbor Day with a morning of flower planting. On the same day they also had a "Yard Sale" on 4th Street.

The Grounds Committee of Veronika Jenke, Christine Rourke and Al St. Denis, working with Green Thumb Gardening Contractors and a large squad of adults and especially the Gabauer children, worked during the morning hours. They planted salvia, perennial lilies, annuals and marigolds around the parking lots and internal planting beds. They were refreshed with lemonade and doughnuts dispensed by the Gabauers and the committee.

After a series of pipe breaks the last few years which resulted in a lot of digging. River Park grounds are now being replanned to include much more planting than in the past. Due to the work of the Saturday workers, our grounds are becoming more colorful and attractive, thanks to all the workers.

River Parkers had a Yard Sale on 4th St. which was a traffic-stopper. Individual table-holders sold their outgrown possessions to their new owners. This fun day was organized by the Activities Committee and headed by Harriet Short. Funds were raised for committee activities, as well as the individual participants.

## Speakers at the SWNA Meeting

(from l. to r.) Khafre Abif of the SW Branch Library, Mrs. Carolyn Bledsoe and Mr. Tom Lewis of the Fishing School speaking at the May Assembly Meeting.

## Eating Rules

by Margaret Oliver

They say don't eat the chicken skin  
The best part of the bird  
But eat the skin of the potato  
Silliest thing I ever heard

If you limit sugar to exclusion  
And cut out every bit of fat  
You can weigh under 100 pounds  
Who wants to look like that.

They say do some kind of exercise  
Til your heart reaches a faster beat  
Tell me how are you supposed to  
When you can't have enough to eat

Have all the raw plants you want  
That's something anyhow  
Until you stop and think a minute  
Isn't that the food of the cow?

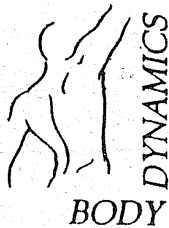
Isn't that the food of the elephant  
And other animals of great girth  
See the rhino, hippo and the horse  
Makes you question some eating rules worth

The lion, leopard and cheetah  
Eat meat and meat alone  
Yet they stay fit and healthy  
And trim down to the bone

Where am I going with this  
Why am I thinking this way  
Because I am craving all the wrong foods  
And tomorrow is my splurging day

copyright Margaret H. Oliver, 1994

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## Merchants Corner

### Wha' Crisis? Three Student Aid Grants For SW'ers Cheer on Budgeters



Welcome to the new store on the block. "Waterside Nails" opened in May on the M St. side of Waterside Mall.

When the DC Government called a meeting at Bowen School last month to explain the District's civic poverty, three Southwest residents showed up to hear all about it.

Dr. Richard Berendzen persevered and updated a 150-page Report of the Commission on the Budget and Financial Priorities of DC, which said that one out of every six residents in DC gets food stamps. One out of every five residents gets Medicaid help. One out of eight residents gets Aid For Dependent Children.

More than 70,000 jobs went down the drain in DC in the last four years while 29,900 more people left the city than settled here.

Berendzen told his trio of listeners the DC public debt will be over \$200 mil., and by year 2000, over \$800 mil., based on the current revenue and spending trends.

Alice Rivlin headed the commission five years ago after being the first person ever to head the Congressional Budget Office, which is depended upon by Democrats and Republicans for straight arithmetic. No one ever accused her of violating that trust. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly appointed her to be the city's top financial adviser as the Kelly Administration started. District per person taxes in 1991 were \$4,622, higher than all other states but Alaska. That was

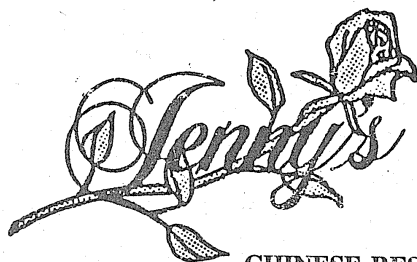
There is a District program for those wishing to continue education or training beyond the high school level. The deadline for a D.C. State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) is June 24, 1994.

To be eligible, an applicant must: [1] be an established D.C. resident for at least 15 months, [2] be either enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an accredited institution on at least a half-time basis, for a full academic year, plus be in good academic standing, and [3] have substantial financial need.

Applications are on a first come, first served basis. They MUST be accompanied by a Student Aid Report as well as be COMPLETELY FILLED OUT. Section A of the application should be completed and signed by the grantee, and sent, along with Section B to the school for completion. The entire form is then submitted to the SSIG office by the deadline.

For an application, call 202-727-3688 or write to the State Student Incentive Grant Program, 2100 M.L. King Jr. Ave., S.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20020.

61% above the U.S. average. Berendzen gave the three people listening 10 possible solutions to the city's money problems.



**CHINESE RESTAURANT**

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Free buffet, Mon. - Fri. 4-7 pm  
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**1/2 Price  
Entree !**  
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Purchase any entree and receive a  
second of equal or lesser value at  
**1/2 PRICE !**  
(One coupon per check)

## The Southwest Community House

The Southwest Community House was founded in 1901, the primary social service agency in Southwest Washington. Its purpose is to assist the residents in obtaining jobs, crisis intervention, family services and senior citizen services.

The SWCH like most similar institutions has its problems. The needs of the community are growing. Hence there is a greater calling for a more advanced training facility and a greater need for public funding.

I had the pleasure of interviewing the Executive Director, Mr. Alphonso Freeman. Mr. Freeman is a firm believer in self help. He took over the leadership in January 1994 and spent the first two weeks cleaning house and establishing a businesslike working environment. He believes that he must first improve the appearance of the house and then members of the community will appreciate its existence.

Mr. Freeman believes that if the Southwest Community House is to continue playing a leading role in the community it must upgrade its services. A lot of emphasis is being placed on training the staff. Helping members of the community to better govern their financial situation is one of Freeman's major plans.

The Southwest House is heavily funded by organizations such as Portals Associates and the National Caucus on Black Aging. SWCH is committed to raising funds on its own. The house has an effective self-help strategy to raise funds within the community. In the month of June there are two self help programs scheduled. A Rap Opera entitled "Outside My Window", on June 17th 1994 from 7:30 pm, admission is \$10.00. It will be at the Randall Auditorium, 65 I St., SW. The other is "A Salute to Father Norman Haddad, O.P.", this program is to honor Father Haddad for the contribution which he has made to the Southwest House. This is to be held on Wednesday, June 22, 1994 at the Ft. McNair Officer's Club, P and 4th Street, S.W. at 6:30 pm, admission is \$20.00. If you are interested in attending either of these events, tickets may be purchased at the events. Please call 202/488-7210 for more information on tickets.

Before closing, Mr. Freeman reiterated the motto of the Community House "Helping Others to Help Themselves." His future plan is to establish the motto in the minds of the community with the help of his professional staff and the Board of Directors. Then he would be able to establish good credentials with clients and the business community. They would be proud to assist because it would be evident that the house is doing such a great job of helping itself and the neighborhood.

## No SWNA Meeting

There will be no SWNA meetings in June, July and August. The next meeting will be held in September. There will be an announcement of it in the next issue of the *Southwester* which will be out later in August.

A Candidate's Forum is tentatively scheduled for the end of August - stay tuned for more.



Mr. Al. Freeman - head of Southwest Community House

## The May SWNA Meeting

The SWNA Meeting was held on May 23rd. The theme of the evening was: "Summer Opportunities for SW Youths". As indicated, there are many programs for young people right here in SW. The presenters are listed with a brief description of their program. Tom Lewis (formerly "Officer Friendly") told of his school called the "Fishing School". It is for youths who are 5 - 15. He would like to open a branch in Southwest. Melissa Taylor of "Uniquely D.C." spoke of the festival on August 13th and the opportunities for youth prior to the event. Khafre Abif of the S.W. Branch Library told about some upcoming programs. A "Junior Friends of the Library" which is a children's program which will meet and go on many field trips during the summer. It is for 10 to 13 year olds. Carolyn Bledsoe of "Project Spirit" which meets at St. Matthews told of her summer plans. It will be an all day program and will expand upon her current program, an after-school program which offers tutoring, arts & crafts, prayer & the bible Children between the ages of 5 to 14 attend. Desney Butler has a "before and after school" program for children from 4 - 12. This summer she will offer an all day program. Lots of field trips, as well as an arts & crafts program. She meets at Southeastern University. Tom Lewis of Second Baptist Church brought the Boy Scout Troop from his church. While he is the leader, Connie Washington (of the church) is an active participant. Second Baptist Church is planning a vacation bible camp. Beverly Thomas of the DC Recreation Dept. spoke about the program which will be at Randall this summer. The last speaker about summer programs for youth was Al Freeman of the SW Community House. They are having several new programs and he introduced the new Youth Summer Program Director, Ms. Nicolette Hawkins.

In addition to these speakers, we heard from Mr. Westoff of Envipco. He explained that when 5 recyclables are deposited in "the reverse vending machine", the depositor receives a coupon. When Envipco sells the recyclables,

## Star Trek Comes to Waterfront

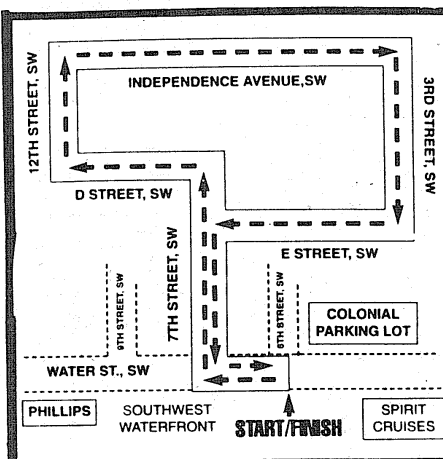
The Southwest Washington Waterfront Association has teamed up with Paramount 20/WDC-TV to produce a 5K Star Trek race event on June 26, 1994. This will be a family event filled with fun, exercise and festivities. A portion of the event proceeds will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

An estimated 2,000 runners/walkers will attend this Star Trek event that promises food, games for the kids, Star Trek characters, door prizes and lots more! A post race brunch with a bounty of fruits, muffins, bagels and beverages will be free to all participants. Win fabulous door prizes and enjoy festive music by ARROW 94.7. Star Trek merchandise, promotional photos and tickets to the upcoming Star Trek convention will also be available at the event.

This race promises to boldly go where no race has gone before. Adult entry fee is \$18, after June 20, \$20. Kids 12 and under pay only \$2. All participants receive specialty items and a commemorative t-shirt incorporating the Star Trek logo and design.

Pick up your runner's packet or register for the race on Saturday, June 25th from 12 noon until 5 pm at the Channel Inn, 650 Water St., SW. On race day, packet pick-up and registration will be from 7:00 am until 8:15 am on the grounds of the Colonial Parking lot at 6th and Water Streets S.W.

Walkers and spectators are encouraged to dress up like trekkies and prizes will be awarded for the best costume to adults, young adults 13-19 and kids 12 and under. Star Trek race festivities start at 9:30 am and will conclude at 12:00 noon. For complete race information call 703-866-4636.



the community will receive a donation from the company.

The next regular meeting will be in September. There will not be a meeting in June. There will be a candidates forum at the library during the last part of August. The *Southwester* will be published in the middle of August so that everyone will be able to learn the date of the forum.

## Southwest Branch Library from the Children's Room

### "Books Go Anywhere"

This years Summer Quest Theme of "Books Go Anywhere" can assist children and young teens travel the world through reading. As summer is the time of picnics, travel and vacation, children can go anywhere they want to go this summer by visiting the Southwest Branch Children's Room and signing up for their Summer Quest Passport. The Passport is your ticket to travel the world and even outer space. The Southwest Branch Library is now registering children and young teens for the Summer Quest. Just drop in to begin your journey for the summer.

The Children's Room has some other exciting events this summer. On June 17th, Linda Fant will tell stories of Chinese Wisdom and Humor for Preschool children at 10:30 am, and for School Age children at 11:15 am. In addition, the Junior Friends of the Southwest community through this summer and beyond.

### Computer Terminology at the Southwest Library Children's Room

Recently the Environmental Protection Agency's Recreation Association made a most generous gift donation to the Southwest Branch Library. The Children's Room will benefit greatly from the computer equipment and software which includes an ERA 2000 Micro System, Packard Bell Monitor, an Extended Keyboard, Panasonic Multi Mode Printer, Hewlett Packard LaserJet Printer, a 3 Button Mouse, Mouse Pad, Computer Interface Cables, Tutor Value Collection of software, Learn to Use your PC, DOS and Windows, Microsoft Works, and \$400.

We were overwhelmed by EPA's generosity and commitment to the Southwest community and its children. Ms. Betty Pendergrast, President of the Recreation Association, as well as, Ms. Maureen "Michi" Treacy we owe special thanks and applause for taking issue with the needs of the library and how much further we can go in the educational development of the children who frequent the Southwest Branch Library. With the addition of two Tandy Computers donated by a Southwest patron and the IEC 286 computer which was mentioned in a previous article, computer technology has reached the Southwest Branch Library.

### Adult Room

Come check out our newly painted reading room. There are many new books for you to read.

### ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

6th and M Streets, S.W.



Services at 8:00 am & 10:00 am during summer  
Wednesday 6:30 pm



Project Spirit Pupils - (Back Row) Dean Hayes, DeAngelo Gamble (front row) Dion Hayes, Jonas Williams.

## Summertime and the Living is not Easy

by Carole Bledsoe  
Southwester Reporter

For children, summer means a vacation from school, family trips, and fun outdoor activities. Unfortunately, for some of the children in the Southwest area, summer brings a feeling of anxiety because it means having to deal with the worst crime wave in the history of Washington, D.C.

There are many reasons why all of this violence is happening. Most of this is the result of the drug trade. Shawn Wilkins, who is 14 years old says that "Sometimes (the violence) is over drugs but it is mainly out of fear that a person is an informer. If someone feels that somebody is an informer, then they will set him up and they will kill him and then his loved ones also." 13-year-old Dean Hayes explains that "Everyone is getting into the drug business, but it is dangerous to get out."

This violence has taken a toll on the personal lives of these young people. 13-year-old Jonas Williams says that one of the saddest things about living in a crime infested neighborhood is that "Nobody has any friends." Wilkins mentions that "It's not safe in school. You can get an education, but you can get shot too."

People are constantly trying to find solutions to bring the crime problem to the attention of the general public and to establish peace within the neighborhood. Blossom Abbey has gathered a selection of drawings that describe crime scenes and has made a book. Jean McDonald of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly has visited the children of the crime area to discuss the problems that are going on.

Many young people are discussing solutions among themselves. People say that added police protection is the answer, but that may not be the immediate solution because as Williams explains, "The police are too scared to do anything." Wilkins also recalls the time when "the police came and tried to break up a fight one

time and they ended up getting shot."

Some feel that the answer is in the political arena. 11-year-old DeAngelo Gamble feels neglected by the current mayor of Washington D.C. "Mayor Kelly will visit the (predominately) white neighborhoods, but she never comes over here." Wilkins feels that things were better under the Barry administration. "Barry may have been on drugs, but at least he did his job."

Hopefully, a solution can be found to solve the problem of violence in Washington D.C. so that children are able to grow in harmony and to realize their full potential.

## Scholarship Comte. Plans Jazz Festival

The Southwest Scholarship Committee is three-quarters of the way through its 20th year of assisting college bound students residing in the Southwest community. During those twenty years, the committee has assisted more than a hundred students pursue their academic endeavors.

They are planning a jazz reception later this summer at the Gangplank Restaurant. The current applicants will be honored and funds will be raised which would be given in memory of John Wilson, Felix Grant and Donald MacDonald.

If you would like to make a donation, but will be unable to attend, please send check to: The Southwest Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 70481, Washington, D.C. 20077-0024. As always, all donations are tax deductible.

### GOD'S GARDEN

by Daryl F. Bell

While passing through a garden, cultivated by God's hand;

I watched as he picked a flower;

Yet I failed to understand;

Why, I asked, do you pick a flower so beautiful for the eye to see?

When it beautifies your garden, and has become a part of me;

I fail to see your wisdom in doing such a thing;

Explain it to me I demanded, as angrily my voice did ring;

God lovingly reassured me, in a voice ever so kind;

I know this flower is beautiful, but remember it was mine.

I put it in the garden, for I wanted to share it with you.

And I knew the day I picked it, it would leave you sad and blue;

But understand my child, though so beautiful to see.

When I bring my flowers home, it's for eternity;

He thanked me for my concern, and heartfelt admiration.

And assured me I'd see his flower again, when he rose up his holy nation!



Marchers from Amidon Elementary School in the city-wide crossing guard parade in downtown D. C. included drummers, flag bearers, banner holders and cheerleaders.

The proud principal - Mrs. Hamlette cheers them on.

